

EPA and USACE Team Up at West Lake Landfill

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has entered into an Inter-Agency Agreement with EPA Region 7 to provide construction management support prior to and during the design and construction of the proposed isolation barrier.

The Corps has the expertise and technical personnel necessary to provide the best oversight of construction of the isolation barrier. The proven successes in the field by the Corps in design engineering, construction management, and environmental remediation will be indispensable assets to ensure that the isolation barrier's construction meets the strictest standards of safety and effectiveness. EPA will work with the Corps to ensure that the community remains protected from contaminants at the site during construction of the isolation barrier.

Specifically, the Corps will review and comment on the draft design of the proposed isolation barrier, including providing input regarding potentially applicable technologies for constructing the barrier. The Corps will review other related technical documents such as air monitoring plans that will occur during construction. The Corps will also review work plans provided by the PRPs associated with construction of the barrier. During field work, the Corps will observe and provide oversight of pre-construction activities required for installation of the barrier as well as observe and provide oversight during construction of the barrier.

The St. Louis District will lead the Corps' efforts at the West Lake site. EPA is working closely with the Corps, United States Geological Survey, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, as a combined state and federal team that remains focused on protecting the health of those living near the site while we continue our work towards a final remedy. Read more about the agreement with the Corps at [\(link\)](#).

Report of Class Action Lawsuit

Last week, the news media reported that a Maryland Heights resident filed a lawsuit against Republic Services alleging that radioactive contaminants from West Lake Landfill have migrated off-site. EPA is not a party to this legal action and, as a matter of policy, cannot comment on it.

It is important to state that EPA has not seen the data referenced in media coverage about the lawsuit. At this point, all validated scientific data available to EPA establishes that there is currently no off-site exposure to radiological contaminants from the West Lake Landfill Superfund site.

From Karl Brooks, Regional Administrator

On April 16 EPA signed an Administrative Order on Consent with Bridgeton Landfill LLC and Rock Road Industries LLC, subsidiaries of Republic Services. The order requires the PRPs to expedite pre-construction activities for the proposed isolation barrier at the West Lake Landfill and begin activity by early May.

The order outlines specific steps that must be taken as a part of the pre-construction activities. These steps include identifying all areas to be used for the storage and staging of excavated wastes; developing a bird hazard mitigation plan; developing an air monitoring and sampling plan to obtain background

data and to assess potential exposures in the community; and to install a mesh barrier inside the fenced area to minimize and capture on-site windblown solid waste during construction activities. The order has been posted to EPA's West Lake Landfill webpage and can be found at [\(link\)](#).

I am also very pleased to report that EPA has finalized its agreement with the United States Army Corps of Engineers to enlist their expertise for the pre-construction, design, and construction phases of the isolation barrier. Additional details about the agreement are provided in the article below.